SHEPTON MALLET
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

HEALTH
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MINISTRY OF HEALTH
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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(including details submitted to me by the Public Health Inspector)

For the Year Ending
31st December, 1957

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

T. E. COULSON, M.D., F.R.C.S.E.

CLERK:

L. BECKERLEG, D.M.A.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:

W. L. BARNSLEY, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., Cert. R.S.H. (Meat and Other Foods)
(Mr. W. L. Barnsley also holds the appointment of Surveyor)

WINCANTON,
SOMERSET.
May, 1958.

TO THE
SHEPTON MALLET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you my Annual Report for the year 1957.

1.—GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	2278
Population (1957)	5220
Number of Inhabited Houses (1957), estimated	1816
Rateable Value, 1st April, 1957	£54,774
Produce of Penny Rate (estimated)	£211

Number of Inhabited Houses is based on the following:—

Dwelling Houses	1692
Banks and Offices with Living Accommodation	6
Shops, etc., with Living Accommodation	75
Club Premises with Living Accommodation	2
Hotels and other Licensed Premises	22
Public Institutions (Hospitals, etc.)	4
Crown Properties	15
Total	1816

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

In addition to shops, offices, building trades and allied trades, the main sources of employment in the town are cider factories (2), breweries (2), shoe-making, millers, bacon factory and meat products, railways (2), agricultural engineering, research chemists, general engineering (2) garages and motor engineering, dry-cleaning and dye-works, rope works, motor haulage.

There is very little unemployment other than that of a transitory nature.

2.—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

BIRTHS

	Males	Females
Live Births:—		
Total	39	54
Legitimate	37	54
Illegitimate	2	0
Still Births:—	Males	Females
Total	1	1
Legitimate	1	1
Illegitimate	0	0

DEATHS

	Total	Males	Females
Deaths from all causes	61	24	37

Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, child-birth:—

(a) From Sepsis	0
(b) From other causes	0

Deaths of Infants under One Year of age:—

Legitimate 2, Illegitimate 0, Total 2

Deaths of Infants under One Week	2
,, ,, ,, ,, from One to Four Weeks	0
,, ,, ,, from One to Six Months	0
,, ,, ,, ,, from Six to Twelve Months	0
Total	2

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	0
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
,, ,, Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	0

There has not been any excessive mortality during the year.

The total number of deaths occurring in the District was 61 compared with 53 in 1956.

The chief causes of death were:—

Cancer	10
Heart and Circulatory Diseases	50
Old Age	2
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions	13

In all " Causes of Death ":—

Those dying between the ages of 75 and 80 were	15
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, 81 and 85 were	23
,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, 86 and 90 were	9
Those dying above the age of 90 were	7

A total of 54 or 88.52% of the total Deaths.

3.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Cases Admitted to Isolation Hospital	Total Deaths
Pneumonia	2	0	1
Measles	16	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	3	0	0
Scarlet Fever	1	0	0
Tuberculosis:—Total	3	0	0
(a) Respiratory	3	0	0
(b) Non-Respiratory	0	0	0
Encephalitis	1	0	0
Whooping Cough	14	0	0
Poliomyelitis	1	1	0

The Notification of Infectious Diseases by Medical Practitioners was satisfactory.

4.—OPHTHALMIA NEONATORIUM

No cases notified.

CAUSES OF SICKNESS

Heart and Circulatory Diseases were slightly more in evidence this year.

5.—SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITAL AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE IN THE DISTRICT

A.—Professional Nursing in the Home

(1) General: There are two Nurses in the District engaged in general District work, who are affiliated to the County Nursing Association.

(2) For Infectious Diseases: one case was admitted to an Isolation Hospital, the remainder were either nursed by their relatives or by nurses obtained from Nursing Homes or Hospitals outside the District

B.—Midwives

There are 2 Certified Midwives practising in the District.

C.—Hospitals Available for the District

(1) Tuberculosis: None.

(2) Fever: None.

(3) Other: Some unused buildings in the grounds of the former Isolation Hospital have been converted into a Hospital for the aged sick.
The Cubicle block of the former Isolation Hospital has been converted into a Maternity Hospital.

There is the District Hospital at Shepton Mallet for the treatment of general medical and surgical cases.
There is no Public Assistance Institution, the building having been taken over by the County Council as an Institution for persons suffering from Mental Deficiency.

D—Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers and Illegitimate Infants: None.

E.—Ambulance Facilities

(1) For Infectious Cases: None.

(2) For Non-Infectious Cases and Accidents:—Two Motor Ambulances and one sitting case Car are kept at the Ambulance Depot, Shepton Mallet, and in cases of need, additional ambulances are obtainable through the local branch of the B.R.C.S., and also from Wells and Radstock.

F.—Scabies

No cases of Scabies have been reported to me.

6.—LABORATORY WORK

Examinations of bacteriological and pathological specimens are carried out at The Public Health Laboratory, Bath; considerable use of this Laboratory has been made during the year.

A supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin is kept at Messrs. Boots (Chemists), and Miss Watkins (Chemist). Supplies can be obtained from them by Practitioners on the National Health Service Prescription Form.

7.—PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

There is one Sanitary Inspector and Housing and Sanitary Surveyor (a whole-time officer) and myself (a part-time officer). There is one Health Visitor in the District.

8.—WATER SUPPLY

The public water supply is operated by the Shepton Mallet Waterworks Company, augmented by the Shepton Mallet R.D.C., and is satisfactory in quality and, except in periods of exceptional drought, in quantity. After a short period of drought in August the Shepton Mallet Water Works Company prohibited the watering of gardens and use of hose pipes for car washing, etc.

The water is not liable to Plumbo-solvent action.

So far as can be ascertained the houses, etc., can be divided up as follows:—

Mains supplies direct to houses 1,650; Population 5090.
Mains supplies by Standpipes 34; Population 106.
Houses supplied by wells 8; Population 24.
Estimated total number of houses in District 1,692.

9.—SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Most of the premises in the Urban District are connected to the public sewers discharging to treatment works at Darshill, but approximately seventy properties in outlying parts of the area are not connected to the main drainage system.

The new Sewage Disposal Works at Darshill have been completed.

10.—CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Total number in District on 31st December, 1957:

(1) W.C.'s: 1,665.
(2) Chemical Closets: 0.
(3) Pail Closets: 28.
(4) Other: 0.

Number of conversions to water carriage system during year: 1.

11.—PUBLIC CLEANSING

The existing arrangements for the collection and disposal of household and trade refuse have been continued. A weekly collection is made at all premises in the District, this work is carried out by Direct Labour, a Ford Thames Model 12 cubic yard covered refuse collection vehicle with hydraulic tipping being used; and a 3-ton Bedford model is on hire to the Council when necessary.

As regards trade refuse, the Council make a charge, in normal cases, on the basis of 5% of the rateable value of the trade premises and for this payment collect trade refuse on two days per week and on request. In the case of a large shoe factory, special arrangements have been made for the removal and disposal of their trade refuse, the actual cost being recovered from the occupiers of the premises.

The whole of the refuse is disposed of by tipping on the controlled system, at a disused quarry at Winsor Hill, Downside, Shepton Mallet; except that some trade refuse and waste paper are incinerated at the tip.

The collection of waste paper continued throughout the year.

12.—CAMPING SITES

There are none in the District.

13.—PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS AND POOL

There is one Swimming Pool at Eastfield in the Urban District owned by the Council. The water is continually circulated, filtered and chlorinated. The temperature of the water is maintained at about 70 deg. F. (minimum).

The type of purification plant is the Horseley Piggott with a Wallace & Tiernan Automatic Chlorinator.

The turnover period is estimated to be approximately 12 hours. The pool is filled from the mains of the Shepton Mallet Waterworks Company.

The daily number of bathers fluctuates considerably, mainly on account of climatic conditions; the estimated maximum daily load is 400 persons, including a large proportion of children, the average during the season is about 130. Residual chlorine and pH samples are taken twice daily.

14.—HOUSING

Total number of permanent dwellings in District .. .. .. (1956) 1656 (1957) 1692
Total number of permanent dwellings owned by Local Authority (1956) 372 (1957) 406

Action taken during year:

(1) Number of houses included in Clearance Areas still to be made 8
(2) Number of houses in Clearance Areas which have been patched for temporary accommodation under Section 48 of the Housing Act, 1957 .. .. .. Nil
(3) Number of houses demolished under Section 42 of the Housing Act, 1957 (Clearance Areas) .. .. Nil
(4) Number of houses demolished under Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1957 (individual Unfits) .. .. Nil
(5) Number of temporary dwellings (huts, etc.) demolished .. .. Nil
(6) Number of houses declared unfit under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1957 .. Nil
(8) Number of houses closed as a result of an undertaking given by the owners or following the issue of Closing Orders .. .. Nil
(8) Number of unfit houses occupied under licence .. .. Nil
(9) *Rent Act*, 1957 (1*st Schedule*). Certificates of Disrepair:
(a) Number of applications received .. .. Nil
(b) Number of Certificates issued .. .. Nil

	Houses erected during year	Houses in course of erection		
Local Authority ..	34	—		
Private Enterprise ..	2	17		
Totals	36	17		

Number of Post-War Houses erected from 1.4.45 to 31.12.57:—
By Local Authority, 281.
By Private Enterprise, 71.

Housing Programme for 1958 (Local Authority). For Slum Clearance, 10; for other purposes, 0.
(a) Number of temporary units occupied: (I) Prefabs, 6; (II) Huts, etc., Nil.
Houses Required:—
To replace houses scheduled for demolition, 10.

Total number of applicants for Council Houses at the end of the year, 104.

15.—IMPROVEMENT GRANTS MADE UNDER THE HOUSING ACTS, 1949–54

Number of applications and houses dealt with by Local Authority:—

	(1) Received		(2) Approved		(3) Rejected			
	Aps.	No. of houses	Aps.	No. of houses	Aps.	No. of houses		
31.7.49–31.12.56	14	18	8	9	6	9		
During year	2	2	2	2	—	—		
Totals	16	20	10	11	6	9		

Note: Number of applications approved in respect of Owner/occupiers, 2.
Average cost per dwelling approved, £700 (Improvement only).
Amount of grant payable by Local Authority, £350.

16.—FOOD

MILK

(a) Number of Registered Distributors 6
(b) Number of Registered Dairy Premises (other than Dairy Farms) 6
(c) Number of Licensed Dealers of Designated Milk 5
(d) Number of supplementary licenses issued to distributors whose dairy is outside your area 2*

* Issued to one dairyman for (a) T.T. and (b) Pastuerised milks.

Designated Milk Sampling

Designation	Samples Taken	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Tuberculin Tested ..	Nil	—	—
Sterilised	Nil	—	—
Pasteurised	Nil	—	—

Biological Sampling: Nil.

ICE CREAM

Number of premises registered for:—

(a) Manufacture and retail .. .. Nil
(b) Manufacture only .. .. Nil
(c) Retail only 16

In practically all cases, supplies of ice cream are obtained in cartons or wrapped from well-known manufacturers.

In addition to registered premises, ice cream is also sold by many restaurants, hotels, etc., and at the local Cinema.

17.—SLAUGHTER-HOUSES AND BACON FACTORIES

None owned or leased by Local Authority

(a) Private slaughter-houses .. .. Licensed 1; Operating 1
(b) Bacon Factories .. .. Licensed 1; Operating 1

There are no slaughter-houses in use where horses are slaughtered for human consumption.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in Whole or Part during Year

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	324	108	55	832	382	—
Number inspected	324	108	55	832	382	—
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci						
Whole carcases condemned ..	2	2	2	—	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	85	28	—	25	41	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ..	26·85	27·77	3·64	3·00	10·75	
Tuberculosis Only						
Whole carcases condemned ..	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	11	9	—	—	9	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis is ..	3·39	8·33	—	—	2·36	—
Cysticercosis						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	3	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—
Weight of meat condemned (in lbs.) for:—						
(a) Tuberculosis	142	89	—	—	67	—
(b) Cysticercosis	130	—	—	—	—	—
(c) Other	1410	1168	90	78	130	—
Total (in lbs.) condemned	1682	1257	90	78	197	—

At the C.W.S. Bacon Factory inspections are carried out by staff employed by the Company. Pigs detained by the staff are inspected by a veterinary officer.

Number of pigs killed		44,266	
Tuberculosis:	Whole carcases condemned	134	Wt. 19,271 lbs.
Other causes:	Whole carcases condemned	43	Wt. 5,179 lbs.
	Part carcases condemned	10,781	Wt. 54,536 lbs.
	Reported as being affected with abscesses and tuberculosis		

18.—FOOD PREMISES

Number of premises registered under Section 16, Food and Drugs Act, 1955 22

19.—BYELAWS UNDER SECTION 15 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Date Byelaws came into operation: 11th December, 1950.

One food manufacturer notified that food room was totally unsuitable—case still being dealt with at end of year.

Hot water required to be provided to bar sink at one inn.

20.—FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948

PART 1 OF THE ACT

1.—Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of: Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	M/c line No. (7)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities*	1	20	57	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	21	29	—	—	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority * (excluding out-workers' premises)	3	1	—	—	—	3
Total	—	42	86	—	—	—

2.—Cases in which Defects were Found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more " cases.")

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found: Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred: To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M. Inspector (6)	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)..	4	—	—	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3) ..	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	7	—	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) ..	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):— (a) Insufficient	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	—	—	—	—	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
Total		—	—	—	—	—	

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

Nature of Work		M/c line No.	Section 110			Section 111			M/c line No.
			No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions	
(1)		(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
Wearing apparel	Making, etc. ..	13	19	—	—	—	—	—	13
	Cleaning and washing ..	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	14

21.—KNACKERS YARDS

Number registered in district .. .. Nil

22.—FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

None

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

T. E. COULSON, M.D., F.R.C.S.E.,
Medical Officer of Health.